

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14TH DISTRICT

Jacobs Press Release

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SEN. JACOBS URGES MI ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN Federal ban scheduled to sunset next week

LANSING – Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) today announced proposed legislation that would ban the manufacture, transfer, purchase or sale of assault weapons in Michigan. The legislation would extend protections due to disappear when the federal ban expires next week under a sunset provision. Joining Jacobs were Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings; Rep. Bill McConico (D-Detroit); Clementine Barfield, Director, Save Our Sons and Daughters (SOSAD); Chalmers Jackson, Board member, SOSAD; Carolynne Jarvis, Director, Michigan Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence; Weusi Olusola, assault weapon victim; Audrey Hills, mother of slain Rochester police officer Adam Hills; and Gloria Stewart, whose son was an assault weapon victim.

“Assault weapons place the entire population at risk, regardless of age, race or geography,” Jacobs said. “These weapons are a threat to all Michigan citizens. If congress fails to extend the ban, Michigan *must* take immediate action to protect our residents.”

Assault weapons are semi-automatic firearms with military features that allow rapid and accurate repeat firing with the capability of firing four to six rounds of ammunition per second. The proportion of banned assault weapons has dropped by more than 65% since 1995, following the enactment of the current federal ban in 1994. Currently, two congressional bills are pending that would extend the federal ban on such weapons; however, it is doubtful the legislation will pass before the current bill expires on September 13, 2004. Seventy seven percent of likely 2004 presidential election voters support renewal of the federal ban, while only 21% oppose renewal.

More than 180 law enforcement officials from across the state have come out in support of continuing the ban. Ten other states have already implemented bans or regulations on assault weapons.

“The statewide support of law enforcement for this ban indicates the importance of taking immediate action to protect Michigan’s citizens,” Jacobs said. “These officials know first hand the dangers these weapons represent.”

Rep. McConico is sponsoring similar legislation in the Michigan House of Representatives.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, and Southfield. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.